

from time to time during the session that no matter what other laws were passed the session would be judged alone by what was done on the Cooper-Hughes tax plan. As we have seen, this is about what happened, or at least as far as the judgment of the newspapers is concerned. This is most unfortunate, from my point of view, for as important as the Cooper-Hughes proposal was, certainly there were a great many other important matters before the Legislature at this session, and the 1966 session, by any objective judgment, was a productive one.

It is regrettable, from my point of view, that we had to settle for less than we wanted in our effort to reach a solution to the vexing problem of the financial relationship of the State and the local governments. But I am confident that a new Governor and a new Legislature, utilizing the studies that have been made and the experience of the recent legislative session, next year will be able to revise the State's tax structure in a manner that will serve the needs of the State government, and the governments of Baltimore City and the counties, for many years of the future. If that happens—and I have every reason to believe it will—then the labors that were spent on the Cooper-Hughes Bill during the 1966 session of the General Assembly will not have been wasted.

There is a great public clamor nowadays for innovation and modernization of the institutions of society, including the body politic. Government, it is felt, must refashioned to embody the new concepts, new manners and new modes of living of a new generation strongly influenced by the advancements that have been made in science and technology. I subscribe to this view whole-heartedly, and in these concluding years as Governor I have tried to lay a solid foundation upon which my successors may be able to build a new society for a new era. The General Assembly has been reapportioned to give all the citizens of our State a substantially equal voice in the deliberations and decisions of the legislative branch of government. The result may be expected to be a heightening of the influence of the urban and suburban elements of our population. Let us hope that this innovation, while distributing the seats in the two houses of our Legislature on a more equitable basis, will at the same time increase the effectiveness of the legislative branch.

Before any appreciable progress can be made in the modernization of the government, steps must be taken to replace the present cluttered and time-worn State Constitution by an up-to-date one. A committee of outstanding Maryland citizens has undertaken the preliminary